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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

JAMES J. BENEDICT  
JOHN P. RANIERI  
MARSHA L. WHITNEY  
RAMA AKELLA

Serial No.: 09/748,038

Filed: December 22, 2000

For: METHOD OF PROMOTING NATURAL  
BYPASS

Group Art Unit: 1654

Examiner: Jeffrey E. Russel

Attorney Docket: 2103.013900  
(SBI-042-CIP)

Customer No. 45488

**1. AMENDMENT;**

**2. RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED MAY 13, 2004**

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING  
37 C.F.R 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date below:

November 15, 2004

Date

Signature

**Mail Stop Amendment**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated May 13, 2004, for which the three-month date for response was August 13, 2004. A request for a three-month extension of time to respond is included herewith along with the required fee. This three-month extension will bring the due date to November 15, 2004 (since November 13 was a Saturday), which is within the six-month statutory period. A check in the amount of \$1302 is enclosed to cover the fee for the extension (\$980), the fee for additional claims added herein (\$212), and the

Fee for the terminal disclaimer (\$110). If any other fees under 37 C. F. R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 are required, the Director is authorized to deduct such fees from Williams, Morgan & Amerson, P.C.

Deposit Account No. 50-0786/2103.013900.

Reconsideration of the application in view of the following amendments and remarks is respectfully requested.

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